



Aruba's natural bridges



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MONDAY:

ANDERSON BAHAMON
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.



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Algorithm for altruism: How smart tech is finding forever homes for foster youth



SAN FRANCISCO — In a window-lined office overlooking the bustling streets of the Mission District, a small team of engineers and social workers is quietly dismantling one of the most persistent barriers to child welfare in the United States. They aren't building a new playground or a youth center; they are building a bridge made of code.

Binti, a mission-driven technology company led by CEO Felicia Curcuru, is at the heart of a national movement to modernize the foster care system. Today, as the company celebrates a milestone of partnering with over 400 agencies across 34 states, the results are proving that "responsible AI" and streamlined software can do what decades of manual paperwork could not: find every child a loving, stable home.

The American foster care system has long been described by those within it as a "paperwork nightmare." For decades, prospective foster parents—individuals willing to open their hearts and homes to children in crisis—were met with a mountain of physical forms, redundant background checks, and months of administrative silence. On the other side of the desk, social workers were buried under filing cabinets, spending upwards of 60% of their time on data entry rather than visiting families.

"We saw a system where the human element was being suffocated by the process," Curcuru explained during a recent community forum.

"When a family decides they want to foster, that is a moment of pure altruism. If you make them wait six months just to get a phone call back because a form was lost in the mail, you lose that family. And when you lose a family, a child stays in a group home or an emergency shelter longer than they should." Binti's platform replaces this archaic paper-trail with an intuitive, mobile-friendly interface. It allows prospective parents to upload documents, track their progress in real-time, and complete training modules online. But the real "revolution" lies in the back-end intel-

ligence. The software uses responsible AI to flag missing requirements instantly, synchronize background check data across state lines, and—most importantly—help social workers match children with families based on specific needs, locations, and cultural backgrounds.

The impact in states like Utah and Washington has been transformative. Since implementing the software, some agencies have reported a 30% increase in the number of approved foster homes and a 50% reduction in the time it takes to license a new family. For the Thompson family in Seattle, the technology was the difference between a dream and a reality. "We had heard horror stories about how hard it was to sign up," Mark Thompson said, sitting in a living room now filled with toddler toys. "With the app, we knew exactly what step we were on. It felt like the system actually wanted us to succeed. We were licensed in half the time we expected, and our daughter was placed with us three weeks later."

However, the team at Binti is careful to emphasize that technology is the tool, not the hero. The hero remains the social worker. By automating the "grunt work" of data entry, the app gives hours of life back to the people on the front lines. Social workers can now spend that reclaimed time conducting deeper home visits, providing emotional support to grieving children, and facilitating reunifications with biological parents.

The success of Binti is also sparking a broader conversation about "Tech for Good" in Silicon Valley. In an era where tech giants are often criticized for privacy breaches or addictive algorithms, Curcuru's model proves that profit and purpose can live in the same house. The company operates as a "Public Benefit Corporation," a legal status that requires them to balance the interests of shareholders with a commitment to a specific public benefit—in this case, ensuring every child has a fair chance at a stable life. □

"Trek Across Maine" rallies for lung health



BELFAST, Maine — Under a canopy of crystal-blue coastal skies, the quiet roads of Waldo County transformed today into a vibrant corridor of hope and endurance. The 42nd annual "Trek Across Maine" officially kicked off this morning, drawing over 1,500 cyclists and hikers for a three-day journey that organizers are calling a "moving party for the breath of life."

The event, spearheaded by the American Lung Association (ALA), is more than a test of physical stamina. It is a massive, multi-million dollar fundraising engine dedicated to clean air advocacy, tobacco prevention, and life-saving research for lung diseases, including asthma, COPD, and lung cancer. As the first wave of participants departed the starting line, the atmosphere was thick with the scent of pine needles and the sound of hundreds of bicycle bells ringing in unison—a traditional "salute to the lungs" that echoed through the hills.

For many participants, the three-day, 180-mile trek is deeply personal. Among the sea of spandex and trekking poles was Elena Rodriguez, a 54-year-old grandmother from Bangor who was diagnosed with severe asthma a decade ago. Today, she crossed the first 20-mile marker with a wide grin.

"Ten years ago, I couldn't walk to my mailbox without reaching for an inhaler," Rodriguez said during a rest stop stocked with local apples and water. "Today, I'm riding for every person who still struggles to take a deep breath. Every mile we cover is a victory over the limitations my body once had. We aren't just moving our legs; we're moving the needle on medical research."

The Trek has become a cornerstone of the New England summer calendar, attracting participants from as far away as California and Florida. This year's route takes "Trekking" through some of Maine's most iconic landscapes, from the rocky Atlantic coastline to the rolling farmland of the interior. Local towns along the path have embraced the event, with residents lining sidewalks to cheer and local bakeries offering "Trekker Treats" to help participants refuel. The financial impact of the event is equally staggering. Since its inception, the Trek Across Maine has raised over \$30 million for lung health. This year, the ALA announced that funds would be specifically earmarked for a new initiative targeting the long-term effects of air pollution on rural communities.

"Maine is known for its 'Vacationland' air, but lung health is a global challenge," said Dr. Marcus Thorne, a volunteer medic and respiratory therapist. "By bringing people together in this way, we do two things: we raise the money needed for the next breakthrough in gene therapy, and we build a community that understands the value of every breath."

The event also serves as a poignant memorial. Many cyclists wear "In Memory Of" bibs pinned to their jerseys, honoring loved ones lost to lung cancer or complications from the environment. At the end of each day's leg, a "Wall of Breath" is erected at the campsite, where participants pin photos and hand-written notes of encouragement to those currently battling respiratory illness. □

Bozeman beams: Community-led solar project lights the path to safer streets

BOZEMAN, Mont. — In a week where national headlines often leaned toward the complex and the contentious, the city of Bozeman has provided a shining example of what a community can achieve when it focuses on the ground beneath its feet. Today, city officials and local residents gathered at the intersection of Main Street and 5th Avenue to cut a ceremonial ribbon, marking the completion of a city-wide safety initiative that has installed dozens of new solar-powered pedestrian warning lights ahead of schedule and under budget.

The project, titled "Safe Streets, Bright Future," was born not from a government mandate, but from a kitchen-table conversation. Two years ago, a group of concerned parents and local business owners noticed a rise in "near-misses" involving students walking to school and tourists navigating the downtown corridor. Rather than waiting for a bureaucratic solution, they formed a grassroots coalition that eventually presented a data-driven proposal to the City Commission.

"We didn't want to just complain about the problem; we wanted to be part of the light that solved it," said



Sarah Jenkins, a local high school teacher who co-led the advocacy group. "Bozeman is a place where we look out for one another. Ensuring that our children can walk to the library or that our seniors can cross the street safely is a fundamental part of being a good neighbor."

The technology behind the initiative is as sustainable as it is effective. Each crossing is equipped with high-intensity, solar-powered LED beacons. When a pedestrian pushes a button or, in some high-traffic areas, simply steps into the designated

zone, the lights emit a synchronized rapid flash that is visible to motorists from hundreds of yards away, even in the blinding glare of a Montana snowstorm.

The transition to solar power was a deliberate choice. By opting for independent energy units, the city avoided the massive costs and logistical nightmares associated with digging up streets to lay electrical wiring. This efficiency allowed the Department of Transportation to expand the project from an initial ten pilot locations to nearly thirty intersections across the city.

The success of the project is also a testament to the unique public-private partnership that funded it. While municipal grants covered the bulk of the equipment costs, local businesses sponsored individual

"Safe Zones," and a community crowdfunding campaign raised over \$50,000 to cover the maintenance of the lights for the next decade.

"This is the Bozeman way," Mayor Terry Thompson noted during the morning ceremony. "When we saw the community step up with

their own skin in the game, it motivated the city to work faster and smarter. We are seeing a 40% increase in motorist yield rates at these new crossings already. That isn't just a statistic; that is a life saved."

Beyond the technical achievements, the atmosphere at today's unveiling was one of genuine joy. Local elementary students decorated the sidewalk with chalk art, and a neighborhood bakery provided "Golden Light" cupcakes to the crowd. For many, the project represents a return to a more connected way of living, where infrastructure serves the person on foot as much as the person behind the wheel.

As other cities across the United States grapple with aging infrastructure and pedestrian safety concerns, many are now looking to Bozeman as a blueprint. Delegations from neighboring Missoula and Billings have already scheduled visits to inspect the solar arrays and interview the citizen advocates who started it all.

For the residents of Bozeman, the message is clear: when a community chooses to lead with its heart and its head, the path forward becomes much brighter for everyone. □

From politics to punches: Biden Jr challenges Trump sons to cage fight

Washington, United States

U.S. politics already feels like a contact sport, but one of Washington's most bitter political feuds may literally be headed to the mat after former president Joe Biden's son challenged the two eldest Trump brothers to a cage fight.

After years of verbal sparring, Hunter Biden said in a video posted online Thursday he would be "100 percent in" for a bout against President Donald Trump's sons Don Jr and Eric, potentially turning the long-running grudge between the families into a pay per view spectacle.

Channel 5, run by left-wing social media influencer Andrew Callaghan, posted a video to its Instagram Thurs-

day featuring the younger Biden explaining that he would be appearing in several venues on the media company's upcoming U.S. tour.

"I think he's trying to organize a cage match, me versus Eric and Don Jr. I told him I'd do it -- 100 percent in, if he can pull it off," Biden said.

Details of the proposed showdown remain hazy, including whether the elder Trump brothers would fight together or separately, and where such an event might take place.

There has so far been no public response from Don Jr or Eric -- who, at 48 and 42 respectively, have an age advantage over their

56-year-old putative opponent. The rivalry between the current White House occupant and his predecessor -- sharpened when Biden beat Trump in the 2020 election -- has been marked by unusually personal attacks and escalating rhetoric.

Trump has repeatedly derided his Democratic foe with nicknames such as "Sleepy Joe" and accused his administration -- without evidence -- of fixing the 2020 election and "weaponizing" federal agencies against Republicans.

Biden, for his part, has cast Trump as a threat to democratic norms and once said he would have wanted to "beat the hell" out of the

billionaire Republican over his crude comments about women if they'd been at high school together.

Any clash of the younger generation would echo a long history of personal feuds in US politics -- from the 1804 duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton to the much-hyped but never-realized 2023 cage match between tech billionaires Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg.

With mixed martial arts enjoying a surge in popularity -- and even an Ultimate Fighting Championship event planned for the White House grounds later this year -- the line between politics and spectacle in Washington appears blurrier than ever. □



Hunter Biden, son of U.S. President Joe Biden, looks on from the East Room of the White House during a Medal of Freedom ceremony on January 4, 2025 in Washington, DC.

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New Jersey city spurns data center as defiance spreads

New Brunswick, United States

Residents of a New Jersey city mobilized within days to kill a planned data center -- and now activists nationwide want to know how they did it.

Grassroots resistance to these computing fortresses is spreading across the United States, even as Big Tech pours hundreds of billions of dollars a year into AI infrastructure, pushing new projects into communities from coast to coast.

Forty miles (65 kilometers) from the New York skyline, rubble still litters a vacant lot in New Brunswick -- bordered by a railway line on one side and homes on the other.

This former automotive plant was where Amzak Capital Management had planned to build its complex. For now, it remains empty -- a trophy, activists say, for a community that fought back.

Residents learned of the project just nine days before a scheduled city council vote in mid-February.

They moved fast. A video went viral; flyers spread



This photo taken on April 1, 2026 shows the prospective site for a data center is seen after the project was scrapped following protests in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

across the city, notably on the nearby campus of Rutgers University. More than 300 people showed up to proceedings held in a room with a seating capacity of barely 80.

Before the matter was even opened for public comment, the city council announced

the data center component was being stripped from the redevelopment plan, recalled Ben Dziobek, founder of environmental advocacy group Climate Revolution Action Network.

"We've got tons of people reaching out to us from around the country asking

us how we did it," said Charlie Kratovil, a Democratic mayoral candidate and member of environmental group Food & Water Action. "It is definitely tapping into something that is bigger than any one of us."

New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill told AFP that while data centers have become

critical to modern economies, "communities across the country are grappling with how to integrate them locally."

Key considerations, he said, include energy consumption, environmental impact, real estate footprint and benefit to local residents. Those concerns resonated deeply in New Brunswick.

A 23-year-old resident who asked to be identified by the initials CJ noted that the data center would have been built in the middle of a working-class neighborhood, far from the businesses, hospitals, and university buildings of the more affluent city center.

For Brandon Guillebeaux, a longtime resident of this heavily Hispanic community, the trade-offs simply didn't add up.

"If it had brought thousands of jobs, it would have been worth it," he said. "But this was only going to be a few." Once operational, data centers typically employ very few workers on site. □

Bridging borders: William & Mary honors international students for local impact



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — In a ceremony filled with diverse languages and shared purpose, the Reves Center for International Studies at William & Mary honored six exceptional students today for their outstanding contributions to the local community. The 2026 International Student Achievement Awards highlighted individuals who have turned their study-abroad experience into a mission of service.

The recipients, representing nations including India, Ethiopia, Malawi, and China, were selected not only for their 4.0 grade point average

es but for their work outside the classroom. From organizing free coding workshops for local youth to volunteering at community food banks, these students have become vital threads in the fabric of Williamsburg.

"Global citizenship isn't just about traveling across borders," said Dr. Teresa Longo, Executive Director of the Reves Center. "It is about what you do once you arrive. These students have looked at our community, seen where help was needed, and stepped up to lead." One honoree, Samrawit

Tekle of Ethiopia, was recognized for her "Language Partners" initiative, which pairs international graduate students with local senior citizens for weekly conversation hours. The program has been credited with reducing social isolation among the elderly while helping students feel more at home in the U.S.

As the ceremony concluded with a reception featuring dishes from each student's home country, the message was clear: while these scholars came to Virginia to learn, they have ended up teaching the community the true meaning of connection. □

Paris has even made a ham sandwich chic

Paris, France

From bistro counters to luxury hotels, the humble Parisian ham sandwich or "jambon beurre" has undergone a dramatic luxury makeover.

Once the no-frills lunch of hurried, cash-strapped workers, the humble ham and butter baguette has in recent years become a gourmet classic.

When he was a student in the 1970s and "completely broke", restaurateur Gilles Caussade's lunch would be a sandwich made "with day-old bread, butter spread and scraped straight off and a token slice of ham", eaten standing at a cafe counter.

Forty years later when he took over one of those timeless Parisian bistros, Le Petit Vendome, in a chic street between the Louvre and the Opera, Caussade made a bold choice: change absolutely nothing especially not its stonking "jambon beurre" sandwich.

From the Formica tables and the wine measured with a string, right down to the well-worn wooden board used to assemble the sandwiches, everything stayed.

Celebrities like Lady Gaga and Meta's Mark Zuckerberg to bankers, students and tourists have all come since for a sandwich at just



This photograph shows a butter, ham, cheese and pickles baguette sandwich at the counter of Le Petit Vendome cafe bistro in Paris on September 16, 2025.

6.50 euros.

Last year Time Out magazine crowned it the "best sandwich in the world". Social media then sent demand soaring. Barriers now manage queues spilling onto the narrow pavement and a dedicated payment terminal keeps pace with the roughly 400 sandwiches sold daily from morning until midnight.

- Half a baguette -

Caussade said his jambon beurre rests on "five secrets that are no longer secret". "First, half a baguette with two crusty ends otherwise

it's too dry. Then churned Normandy butter in a block, always unsalted. Salt on cured meat is salt on salt, it makes no sense," he said.

"Top quality products, 99 percent from Auvergne" in rustically rural central France. "Then the fact it's made to order because a refrigerated sandwich just can't taste like this. The bread gets soggy, the butter hardens.

"And finally, generosity," he added.

For a trio of American women in beige trenchcoats who waited 15 minutes to

order, the experience lived up to the hype.

"My daughter saw it on TikTok and we had to come," said tourist Lauren Davies. "I get it, for Parisians this is what a hot dog is to New Yorkers."

- Sophisticated -

The upward climb of the worker's sandwich shows no signs of slowing. In 2024, star pastry chef Cedric Grolet sparked an online uproar when he introduced a truffle "jambon beurre".

At the Ritz Paris, patissier Joris Theysset said he "fully embraces" the concept,

offering what may be the city's most expensive jambon beurre at 15 euros.

"A traditional 'Parisien' is usually 60 percent bread and the rest filling. We decided to reverse that," he told AFP.

His version features a rich, flaky bread shaped like a horseshoe, filled with Prince de Paris ham -- made artisanally in the capital -- fine shavings of Comte cheese, mustard-infused butter and slender gherkins.

"The idea is to elevate a symbol of French and Parisian cuisine using all the Ritz's expertise and premium products, while staying true to childhood memories," he said.

From Coco Chanel's little black dress to the jambon beurre, the French philosophy that true sophistication comes from simplicity still holds.

We have come a long way "from the 1970s when, with industrial sandwiches and declining bakery quality, things weren't great," said Alain Roussel, known as Alain Miam Miam, another Parisian ham sandwich legend.

From his popular stand at a bustling food spot on the edge of the Marais district, he sells 300 to 400 made-to-order sandwiches daily, overflowing with fresh ingredients in rustic bread. □

Giving birth in a shelter in Israel

Haifa, Israel

Inside an underground shelter at a hospital in the Israeli city of Haifa, a television screen flickers with images of Iranian missiles as doctors and midwives deliver Sarah Bird's third child. "She's beautiful," a midwife says, placing the newborn in her mother's arms for a first kiss.

"She is!" exclaims Bird, 38, breaking into a broad smile.

Her husband Yitzhak, tense throughout, finally exhales, then explains that the couple will wait a week before choosing a name.

The couple had arrived just hours earlier at the Mount Carmel Medical Center

and were taken straight to the facility's underground shelter, carved into the mountainside.

About 10 babies are born there each day, according to Clalit, Israel's main healthcare provider, which operates the hospital.

Since the war began on February 28 with US-Israeli strikes on Iran, 370 newborns have been delivered in the shelter.

Within hours of the initial strikes on Iran, major hospitals across Israel shifted to maximum emergency readiness, moving patients and critical departments underground.

Operating theatres, inten-

sive care units and even maternity wards have been relocated to protected subterranean spaces.

A fragile ceasefire between Washington and Tehran took effect on April 8, and no Iranian missiles have been fired at Israel since.

But in Haifa still reeling from a strike on a residential building that killed four people days before the truce sirens continue to wail.

Rocket fire from Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, an ally of Tehran, has not stopped. Israel says Lebanon is not covered by the ceasefire and has continued strikes on its neigh-



The newborn daughter of Israeli woman Sarah Bird, is presented to the mother at the operating theatre of the neonatal unit in the underground bomb shelter built into the Carmel Medical Center in the northern city of Haifa, on April 9, 2026.

bour, which have left more than 300 people dead this week.

More than 20 rocket alerts sounded in northern Israel

on Thursday alone, along the Lebanese border, after Hezbollah said it had fired multiple barrages. □

'Sartorial diplomacy' on show in expo of late UK queen's fashion

London, United Kingdom

In a handwritten note on a sketch of an evening dress for her official visit to India and Pakistan in 1961, Queen Elizabeth II specified it should be sewn in "yellow satin", a colour symbolising health and prosperity in the region.

The sketch is one of about 300 items on display, some for the first time, at the exhibition "Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style", which opens Friday at Buckingham Palace.

This unprecedented survey of the late UK monarch's wardrobe throughout her life (1926-2022) reveals the important diplomatic role she attached to her outfits.

The display in the King's Gallery at the London palace features sheath dresses sparkling with sequins and swirling outfits in vibrant colours from the 1960s.

There are also spectacular draped evening dresses straight from the atelier of Cristobal Balenciaga, maternity outfits and the military uniforms the princess wore during World War II.

In a section called "the finishing touch", the queen's signature colourful hats are pinned up on a wall opposite the coordinating outfits. Tickets for the spectacular exhibition, which runs to



A member of the Royal Collection Trust staff adjusts an evening dress (C) worn by Queen Elizabeth II circa 1960, during a media preview of the exhibition 'Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style' at the King's Gallery in Buckingham Palace in London on April 9, 2026.

October, have already sold out for April.

Highlights include Elizabeth's wedding dress dating from 1947 and the ornate embroidered gown she wore for her coronation, both created by British designer Norman Hartnell.

- Political aims -

"We wanted to pay tribute not only to her style but also to British fashion and designers," stressed Caroline de Guitaut, the curator, who chose the outfits on

display from an archive of some 4,000 items.

A key attribute of the royal's wardrobe was its political aims, the exhibition reveals, with fashion choices also playing a diplomatic role. The coronation gown illustrates this, perfectly decorated with the national emblems of the nations of the United Kingdom: the English rose, the Welsh leek and the Scottish thistle, as well as flowers symbolising the Commonwealth countries. This diplomatic dimension

was a recurring theme of Elizabeth's wardrobe through her record-breaking 70-year reign.

In 1954, while travelling in Australia, she wore a yellow stole delicately embroidered with the golden wattle, the national floral emblem.

And in 1961, on a visit to Pakistan, she dined with President Mohammad Ayub Khan wearing a satin dress in the colours of the national flag of the country, a former British colony.

"She was the undisputed queen of sartorial diplomacy," said de Guitaut.

The monarch's aim was always the same: "to show respect for the country she was visiting", the curator said, since her visits were made on government advice largely to countries with whom Britain hoped to build stronger ties.

- 'Eye for everything' -

This broke with the ancient tradition of royal clothing as a way to display wealth and power, historian Lisa Hackett told AFP.

Now confined to ceremonial roles, monarchs "no longer use their clothing to display their power" but instead want to convey respect and courtesy, said the academic from the University of New England in Australia.

These were dress codes that Elizabeth mastered to perfection.

"She was educated from an early age about her role and her wardrobe," Hackett said.

Elizabeth was also very involved in the design of her outfits.

"She decided what she wanted to wear, chose her designers, and even selected her suppliers," said de Guitaut. □

UK animal charity rescues over 250 dogs from single home

London, United Kingdom

An animal welfare charity has revealed it rescued more than 250 dogs from one UK home, with a photo of the scene prompting

"disbelief" and false claims that the image was generated by artificial intelligence.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to

Animals (RSPCA) said the more than 250 poodle-cross breeds were found at the property in an undisclosed location earlier this year.

The world's oldest animal welfare organisation, the RSPCA took in 87 of the rescued canines, while the remainder went to another charity, the Dogs Trust.

The RSPCA said the "shocking" case was just the latest example of its staff discovering large numbers of pets needing rescuing from a single home.

It responded to 4,200 incidents last year across England and Wales that involved at least 10 animals at the same address -- a 70-percent rise since 2021. Cases involving dozens

and even hundreds of animals were "on the rise", and can be linked to mental health struggles, the cost-of-living crisis, or breeders operating with poor practices, the charity said.

The RSPCA said people had incorrectly suggested the image of the rescued poodle-cross dogs was fake, after it was posted on social media and caused "disbelief among the general public".

It showed dozens of the dogs, many in poor physical condition, crammed into the dilapidated living room of the home.

The charity has had to respond to dozens of comments from concerned

people.

"This shocking image is the reality of many multi-animal cases and the situation our frontline officers seem to be confronting more and more," RSPCA Superintendent Jo Hirst said Wednesday after the photo went viral.

"We understand that people are so aghast they don't believe what they are seeing," she added in a statement. "But this photo is not AI -- it's real."

The RSPCA has not revealed further details about the case, including the location of the home, because the people involved were considered "extremely vulnerable", it said. □



This undated handout photo released to AFP on April 9, 2026 from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) shows an image of poodle-cross dogs being kept in one home, at an undisclosed location in Britain.

Aruba's underwater wonderland

(Oranjestad)—Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots you can explore. So take your snorkeling gear and visit some of these top places for underwater exploration.

Tres Trapi

'Tres Trapi' means three steps in Papiamentu. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by a tiny stairway carved into the rocky coastline. Tres Trapi is a small beach, located on the north-western side of the island, an approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you walk right into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While you're snorkeling, you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the



red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean Sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animals, keep your distance and just enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neu-

tral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken WWII ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach is a lagoon with crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Further in the lagoon, you'll find a lot of

people snorkeling. This is an excellent spot to go under water exploring—but do take care not to go too far out; outside the lagoon the waves can be pretty rough! In the lagoon there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. The main entrance to reach the beach is through a small bridge that takes you through the mangrove trees. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, accompanied with wooden stairs built to allow easy access to the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you'll find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is snorkel heaven. □

PSA from the Aruba Conservation Foundation: How to behave when you see a "lora"

(Oranjestad)—The conservation of the Yellow-Shouldered Amazon, also known as the 'Lora,' relies on how we act as humans. We've seen many hikers who've encountered the 'Lora' in our protected nature areas and we can certainly imagine the pride and joy it brings to any Aruban. However, not everyone may know how to behave when encountering these clever and social birds. This guide is here to explain the behaviors that will most effectively help us in our efforts to conserve the 'Lora.' Please, don't just read but also follow these guidelines so we can ensure the survival of these

birds for future generations.

No interfering, please

Please refrain from interfering with the "Lora". The Lora is a highly intelligent and social animal, perhaps slightly too friendly

because they have gotten used to the rangers as they prepared for their re-introduction. However, it is our collective responsibility to help them adapt to the wild once again. Please play your part by not interfering (calling, provoking

etc.) with the Lora. Simply enjoy their beauty from a safe distance.

Be respectful and keep cats and dogs away

Pets and strays such as cats and dogs are prone to attacking other animals, especially birds, as part of their natural instincts. Please make sure your pets are kept inside of your yard or are kept on a leash when going out for a walk.

Do not feed them food or water

You may think that giving the any food or water is doing a good deed, but it actually does not contribute to them developing

survival skills in the wild. By interfering with the survival instincts of wild animals, we are doing the opposite of helping. Therefore, please do not attempt to give the Loras food or water.

Capturing a Lora is against the law!

The biggest threat to the Lora before their extinction in 1947 was caused by human activities including poaching and killing of the Lora. Let's work collectively to prevent this from happening again. So when you see the Lora, enjoy their beauty from a distance and admire them as they flourish in the wild. □



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Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church and the Bushiribana Gold Mill you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had

a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge".



(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of wheat flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp sugar

A quick snack for the road

Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

- 0.5 cup of melted butter
- 1 cup water
- 1 egg
-

Directions:

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around ¼ inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the pastry.

Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel

free to use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few.

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National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the bright blue Cododo or mighty Warawara.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: A majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heading back to the ocean after laying her eggs during breeding season. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerg-



ing.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough

hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamana hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, or 4x4 vehicle. As of 2020, ATV's and UTV's are not allowed in the park due to its significant impact on nature.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

The Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF), formerly known as Aruba National Park Foundation, manages the national park. This foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to

Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of ACF. In 2019, preliminary management plan for marine were introduced for Parke Marino to conserve reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests and in 2020 ACF was given additional management areas such as the Saliñas (Druif, Malmok, Cerca, Palm Beach, Bubali etc.) and also additional areas such as Rooi Manonchi, Ser'I Teishi etc. Managed areas can be seen here: <https://acf.aw/>.

Visit the National Park Arikok to see the wonder of Aruba's nature. The visitor center in San Fuego and entrance in Vader Piet (San Nicolas) is open daily from 8:00 AM to 16:00 PM. Contact the ACF via e-mail, info@acf.aw or call +297 585 1234 for more information. □



Basic driving rules on Aruba: Roundabouts

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.



Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to

know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confused among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two

extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located farther west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! ☐



Meet Aruba's biggest hero, Boy Ecury



(Oranjestad)—As part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and due to its strategic geolocation, Aruba was unexpectedly involved in the Second World War. As is known around the globe, this chapter in world history is one of the most tragic yet, and many soldiers and rebels have died on the front line during this time.

One of those rebels who have fought against the Nazi regime, was an Aruban named Segundo Jorge Adelberto "Boy" Ecury. Born

in Aruba on April 23rd, 1922, Boy spent his childhood on the island, before being sent to The Netherlands by his father when he was 15 years old to continue his studies abroad. This was in 1937, three years before WWII broke out.

During the war, he actively participated in the rebellion in The Netherlands against the Nazi regime, but his rebellious streak and constant drive to fight for justice began even before the war broke out. Being a person of color with a Haitian heritage living in The Netherlands made him vulnerable to discrimination, and this inspired him to be an activist, to stand up and fight against discrimination and oppression.

After seeing the horrific bombings of Rotterdam first-hand, he decided to join the resistance. At the same time, he was still studying and living with family in Tilburg. It was there where he met people who printed and distributed the rebellion newspaper. This would be the first of three rebellion groups that he would join throughout his 4-year service to the resistance.

Boy's primary task as member of the group was to distract the German soldiers while others ran into hiding into alleyways. This he was able to do because of his skin color and confronting demeanor. Boy also participated in the multi-

ple sabotaging operations against the German military occupying The Netherlands. These included bombings on German military trucks and trains. The group also helped people go into hiding, as well as opened fire against allies of the Nazi regime. In these operations, Boy really stood out for his cold bloodedness.

In 1943, he received a notice to be placed for work in Germany. This he refused, of course, and went into hiding using multiple addresses in multiple cities. Because he was a wanted man, he of course could not continue to be active as a rebel. However, stubborn and naturally rebellious as he was, he always tried to join in on the operations regardless.

In 1944, after his friend Luis de Lanoy, a fellow rebel from Curacao, was arrested and executed, he moved to Delft, where he joined his third and last group in Rotterdam. During this time, he wrote a goodbye letter for his family, possibly knowing the risks of him being active again in the big cities.

Eventually, he proved himself right. On November 5th, 1944, Boy Ecury was arrested by German soldiers. He was placed in the "Oranjerhotel" prison in Scheveningen, The Hague, where he was questioned. Despite being sold out by an ac-



quaintance, he himself never gave away the names of his comrades. Famously, he told his cell mate: "I will die with a smile on my face."

On November 6th, 1944, Ecury was executed. He was only 22 years old.

Ecury was buried with military honor. In 1949, the Aruban Government erected a monumental bust of him in front of what is now the linear park trail, and in 1984 he received the Resistance Memorial Cross postmortem.

Boy's life motto was this: "In my father's house, there is no place for a traitor." □

Source: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

ORANJESTAD—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Pineapple



Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drank after an operation on the ovaries or uterus. This

gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a "shalup" (porridge) for stomach pain or when you're feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.



Eggplant kataplan* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis.

***warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.**

***kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen.**

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS 38 Mysteri-

1 Con-

vincing

7 Track

shape

11 Dense

12 Flaring

star

13 Good

name

14 Marina

spot

15 Provinces

16 News

summary

17 Endure

18 Take turns

19 Final,

for one

21 Silent

assent

22 Alcor's

constella-

tion

25 Sauna site

26 TV warrior

27 Genesis

29 Physics

amount

33 Lucy's

brother

34 Fire

starter

35 Rara —

36 "The

Naked

and the

Dead"

author

37 Minimal

change

ous

39 Hence

40 Poked

fun at

DOWN

1 Pink

shade

2 Met per-

formance

3 Stares

stupidly

4 Considers

compa-

rable

5 Squirrel's

cache

6 Kicker's

aid

7 Start

8 Kilauea,

e.g.

9 Ace, e.g.

10 Passed

on the

track

16 Caesar

subject

18 Japanese

noodles

20 Cartesian

line

22 Away from

the mouth

23 Drizzly

need

SHARD FLOSS
LOTTO RANCH
EATEN EXTRA
UGH AWE HIM
TIE TAD EMU
HESTER ASPS
AUSTRIA
DUMB HAMMER
EVE DOCKERA
CUT AGE PAR
ALIBI CEASE
LAMER ANGEL
SEEDY REEDY

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-22 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

XLPI Y LDPE XLDH Y'K MDYHN

UDCCDR PI YA VDFVCD

QPEYHN EDPCCU CFZRCU

PI KD. — CDACYD THFVD,

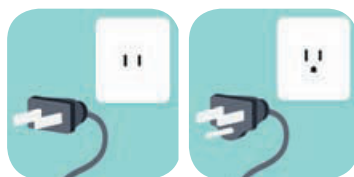
"VPETA PHR EDQEDPIYFH"

Cryptoquote: IF WE CHOOSE,
WE CAN LIVE IN A WORLD OF COMFORTING
ILLUSION. — NOAM CHOMSKY

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through

Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE	
07 TUE	OASIS OF THE SEA Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I
08 WED	REGAL PRINCESS Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 16:00 Berth: B SERENADE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: I FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: **** Berth: E
09 THU	OCEANIA INSIGNIA Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 20:00 Berth: B CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 20:00 Berth: C GRAND PRINCESS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: I
10 FRI	NORWEGIAN JEWEL Arrival: 11:00 Departure: 20:00 Berth: C
12 SUN	FREEWINDS [Departure] Arrival: **** Departure: 22:30 Berth: E

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	1	2					7	
			5	1			3	
		3						
6		4		9	8			
	3			4	6		2	5
		1		7		9	4	
			4	2	7	1		
			8		1	5		
1	2	8						

Difficulty: ★★★★★

4/11

Answer to previous puzzle

2	4	7	9	8	3	5	1	6
9	1	6	5	2	7	8	4	3
5	8	3	1	6	4	9	7	2
6	7	9	8	1	2	4	3	5
8	3	1	4	5	6	7	2	9
4	5	2	7	3	9	1	6	8
3	9	5	2	4	1	6	8	7
7	6	4	3	9	8	2	5	1
1	2	8	6	7	5	3	9	4

Difficulty: ★★★★★

4/10

Emperor penguins listed as endangered species: IUCN

Paris, France

The emperor penguin has been declared an endangered species as climate change pushes the icon of Antarctica a step closer to extinction, the global authority on threatened wildlife announced on Thursday.

Its change of status from "near threatened" to "endangered", made by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), underscores the existential threat for ice-dependent species as global warming profoundly reshapes the frozen continent.

Emperor penguins rely on stable sea ice essentially platforms of frozen ocean water to live, hunt and breed.

Their numbers have plummeted as warming driven by greenhouse gas emissions has caused sea ice to break up earlier in the year.

The IUCN a global network of scientists, governments and conservation groups said changes in sea ice were expected to halve the emperor penguin population by the 2080s.

They "concluded that human-induced climate change poses the most significant threat to emperor penguins", Philip Trathan, part of the IUCN expert group who worked on the Red List assessment, said in a statement.

The Red List of Threatened Species is maintained by the IUCN and is the global reference on the extinction status of plants, animals and fungi.

There are six classifications from "least concern" to "extinct".

Emperor penguins now rank two steps below "extinction in the wild" a species surviving in captivity only, and not in nature.

The Antarctic fur seal once hunted to near extinction for their pelts was also moved to "endangered", their numbers having dropped more than 50 percent since 1999.

"The ongoing decline is due to climate change,



This handout photograph released by The British Antarctic Survey on April 8, 2026, shows Emperor Penguins diving into water on Antarctica on November 25, 2010.

as rising ocean temperatures and shrinking sea ice are pushing krill to greater ocean depths in search of colder water, reducing the availability of food for seals," the IUCN said.

- 'Icons on ice' -

The largest and heaviest of the penguin species, boasting a brilliant golden-orange streak on the neck, emperor penguins have become symbolic of the fight to survive in Antarctica's harsh climes.

They breed on the sea ice in the dead of winter, the males keeping their eggs warm beneath their feet.

The frozen surface also provides a habitat for their chicks during moulting season before they are waterproof.

Antarctic sea ice un-

dergoes huge seasonal changes, expanding during winter and shrinking in summer.

But as global temperatures have reached new highs, sea ice has retreated earlier in the spring and become less stable.

Sea ice has been at record low levels since 2016 and the impact on emperor penguins has been well documented.

Satellite imagery indicates around 20,000 adults some 10 percent of the population disappeared between 2009 and 2018 alone, the IUCN said.

"This species is closely associated with sea ice and ice packs," Christophe Barbraud, a scientist at French research institute CNRS, told AFP.

"However, since 2016-2017, there has been a significant decrease in the extent of sea ice around Antarctica, and therefore without sea ice, it will have great difficulty surviving."

"The fate of these magnificent birds is in our hands," Rod Downie from conservation group WWF said in a statement. □



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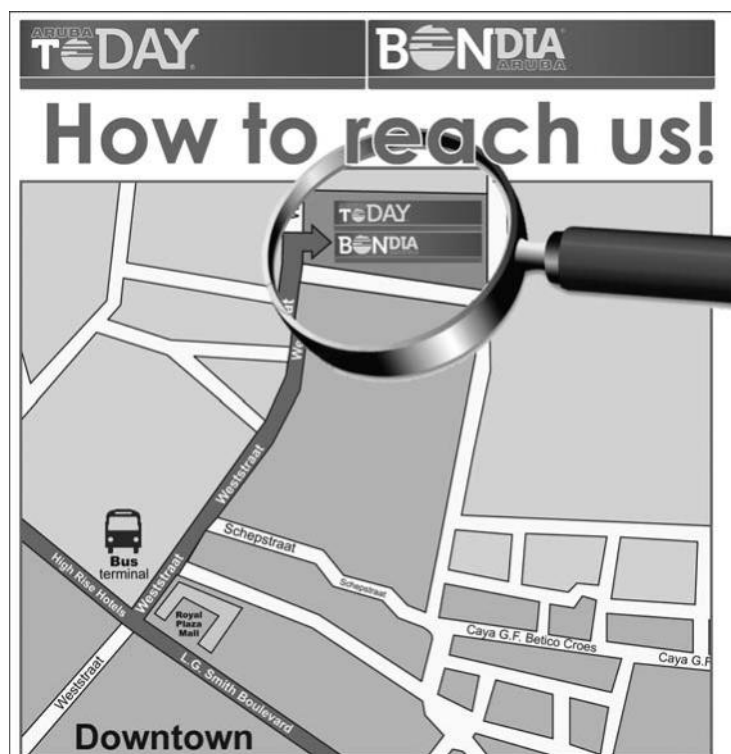
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Celine Dion's Paris concerts promise to spin the money on and on

Paris, France

Celine Dion's fans are of the only ones excited about the megastar's new tour in Paris. Hotels, restaurants and shops are hoping for a multimillion-euro boost from concertgoers in the French capital.

The 58-year-old Canadian singer announced last month that she was returning to the stage for 16 concerts in the French capital in September and October, after a lengthy break prompted by a rare health condition.

She could prove the latest in a series of stars to bring with them significant economic uplift from music fans, following Taylor Swift's record-breaking Eras Tour and as the South Korean mega-group BTS embarks on its tour.

The Eiffel Tower was lit up to honour the return of Dion who sings both in French and English and with the city covered in billboards and posters, Parisian businesses are hoping the tour will prove a major money spinner.

Dion's tour could bring an additional 300-500 million euros (\$351-\$585 million) into the city, said Alexan-



A photo shows a billboard of Canadian singer Celine Dion to announce upcoming Parisian concert dates, seen on a hotel overlooking the Boulevard Peripherique ring road at the Porte de Saint-Ouen in northern Paris, on March 31, 2026.

dra Dublanche, president of Choose Paris Region, the organisation that promotes the wider Paris area.

This includes ticket sales, hotel and restaurant bookings, retail spending and more, she told AFP, adding that international visitors tend to spend more than domestic travellers.

When Swift held four concerts in Paris in 2024, the city saw an economic boost of

around 150-180 million euros, Dublanche said.

Dion has said she was diagnosed with Stiff Person Syndrome, an incurable autoimmune disorder, and was forced to cancel her last tour dates due to both the Covid pandemic and ill health.

The latest tickets for Dion's shows went on sale on Friday, with an estimated half a million fans to attend

the concerts, a third from overseas, according to Dublanche.

Others have put the figure higher. MKG Consulting estimated the potential economic impact at more than one billion euros, including a 180-million-euro boost for the Parisian hotel industry. MKG analyst Vanguelis Panayotis said the economic benefits could reach 1.2 billion euros if taking into account transporta-

tion, and all the associated expenses and logistics of Dion's support team as well as fans.

- 'Driver of travel' -

Swift's Eras tour became the highest-grossing musical tour in history, with ticket revenues estimated at more than \$2.0 billion and hundreds of millions of dollars in extra economic activity in cities where she performed.

"Major musical events are a driver of travel," said Vanessa Heydorff, managing director for France at Booking.com.

The hotel reservation site said that searches for Paris around the dates of Dion's concerts increased by 49 percent.

The Adagio chain, which has 10 hotels in the city's La Defense district where the concerts will be held, saw a 400-percent increase in bookings.

"This will be good for Paris because the capital is currently experiencing a drop in hotel occupancy rates" due to the unstable international situation, said Didier Arino, chief executive at the consulting firm Protourisme. □

Michael Jackson fans swarm Berlin for biopic premiere

Berlin, Germany

Thousands of Michael Jackson fans descended on Berlin on Friday for the premiere of a new biopic about the "King of Pop", undeterred by child sex abuse allegations that continue to haunt the star. "Michael", in which the singer is portrayed by his nephew Jaafar Jackson, is expected to be one of the highest-grossing films of its kind in history.

In the queue for the screening, Andy Escobar, a 31-year-old aircraft mechanic from the United States, said his nickname at school was MJ "because everybody knew that I was a Michael Jackson fan". Asked about the child abuse allegations, Escobar said simply: "We know that's not true."

"He was found not guilty," added Megane Kittler, a

31-year-old educator from France who lives in Berlin. Only around 4,000 fans will actually be able to watch the film on Friday evening, two weeks before its of-

ficial release, after being allocated seats via prize draws.

For the rest, there will be Michael Jackson-themed activities throughout the

weekend including panel discussions with the film crew, an exhibition dedicated to the singer and themed parties.

Jackson, who died aged 50 in 2009 from an overdose of propofol, faced multiple allegations of child sex abuse during his lifetime.

- Release pushed back -

Despite his 2005 acquittal in a criminal trial for child molestation, the star never managed to restore his image while alive.

Other alleged victims filed civil lawsuits after his death and several proceedings are ongoing. The artist has never been convicted in a criminal or civil court.

"Michael" was originally intended to explore the impact of the allegations on the star, according to industry magazine Variety,

citing unnamed sources "with knowledge of the production".

However, a third of the film was cut after lawyers for the Jackson estate realised there was a clause in a settlement with one of the singer's accusers that barred any mention of him in a film, the magazine said.

As a result, large parts of the film had to be rewritten and the release -- originally scheduled for April 18, 2025 -- was pushed back.

Film studio Lionsgate is banking on making \$700 million in global box office receipts for the feature-length film.

That figure would far surpass other productions in the same genre except for the Freddie Mercury-inspired "Bohemian Rhapsody", which took in \$910 million. □



Family members including (L-R) US filmmaker and son of Michael Jackson Bigi Jackson, US singer and son of Michael Jackson Prince Jackson, US singer Jackie Jackson, US singer Jermaine Jackson, US singer Marlon Jackson pose for photographers as they arrive on the red carpet for the world premiere of the Michael Jackson biopic "Michael" at the Uber Eats Music Hall in Berlin on April 10, 2026.



UAE Team Emirates' Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar (front) and Alpecin-Premier Tech's Dutch rider Mathieu van der Poel cycle in the men's race of the 'Ronde van Vlaanderen/ Tour des Flandres/ Tour of Flanders' UCI WorldTour one day cycling race, 278 km from Antwerp to Oudenaarde, in Haaltert on April 5, 2026.

Cycling oddities: What's in a name?

Compiègne, France

Paris-Roubaix is one of the oldest cycle races in the world and one of five prestigious 'Monument' one-day classics.

It is known both as the 'Hell of the North' and the 'Queen of the Classics', giving it almost legendary status with its gruelling 260km route which takes in more than 50km of bone-jarring cobbles.

First raced in 1896, this Sunday will be the 123rd edition of a race which has been won by cycling greats such as Fausto Coppi, Eddy Merckx, Roger de Vlaeminck, Bernard Hinault, Tom Boonen, Fabian Cancellara and, more recently, Mathieu van der Poel.

But, for the first time, the race will go by a slightly different name: Paris-Roubaix Hauts-de-France.

The race takes place in Hauts-de-France, the most northern region in the country, and the name change reflects the region's sponsorship of the event.

This year has also seen other historic races changing their identity. Gent-Wevelgem became In Flanders Fields-From Middelkerke to Wevelgem, the Criterium du Dauphine was rebranded as the Tour of Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes, and Three Days of De Panne morphed into the Tour of Bruges.

The name changes some-

times reflect new realities, or like Paris-Roubaix and the Criterium du Dauphine, they happen for sponsorship reasons.

In the case of the Tour of Bruges, it has gone through several name changes during its history.

Originally raced over three days from De Panne in West Flanders to the Flemish Ardennes, it changed its name to Three Days of Bruges-De Panne as it moved to a start in Bruges.

That became the Classic Bruges-De Panne when it became a one-day race before dropping all mention of De Panne since it no longer goes through the town.

- Paris in name only -

Races do not always change their names due to a change of course, though.

Paris-Roubaix has not started in Paris or its suburbs since the 1960s.

The start was first moved to Chantilly, 50km away, and is now in Compiègne, some 80km from the capital.

Even more absurdly, the women's version of the race which is just over half the distance actually starts in Denain, some 200km from Paris!

Paris-Tours is another of the sport's oldest races having begun in 1896.

It originally started in Paris before quickly moving to

Versailles in the southwestern suburbs before settling in recent years in Chartres, more than 90km from the capital.

Another example is Paris-Brussels, which was first raced in 1893 over 400km. The start was soon moved 85km northeast to Soissons and since 2013 it has been renamed the Brussels Classic with the 200km course entirely within Belgium.

Stage races such as the Tour de France obviously change their route every year, even starting frequently outside of France. But even some one-day races have undergone significant changes to their routes. Italy's Tour of Lombardy (Giro di Lombardia) was initially called Milan-Milan when it was created in 1905.

- Four days, or five (or six) -

There are, however, many races that have bucked this trend, not least two of the five Monuments: Milan-San Remo and Liege-Bastogne-Liege, which essentially have changed little over the years.

Most peculiar, though, is the Four Days of Dunkirk, which has now also added the Hauts de France region to its official name.

When it was first created in 1955 it was actually called the Dunkirk Grand Prix-Primrose Trophy, although that did not last long. □



Tyrrell Hatton of England putts on the 15th green during the second round of the 2026 Masters Tournament at Augusta National Golf Club on April 10, 2026 in Augusta, Georgia.

McIlroy battles Rose and Hatton for the Masters lead

Augusta, United States

Defending champion Rory McIlroy battled England's Tyrrell Hatton and Justin Rose for the lead in Friday's second round of the 90th Masters at firm and fast Augusta National.

McIlroy, a five-time major winner from Northern Ireland, sank a six-foot birdie putt at the par-five second hole to seize the solo lead at six-under par.

McIlroy, trying to become only the fourth golfer to capture back-to-back Masters titles, had shared the 18-hole lead with American Sam Burns after firing a five-under-par 67 on Thursday.

Burns was still on five under through seven holes sharing second with Hatton and Rose.

Hatton matched McIlroy atop the leaderboard with birdies at the par-five 15th and par-three 16th, giving him seven birdies and no bogeys on the day as he chased a first major title.

Hatton, who made four birdies on the front nine, landed his approach two feet from the hole at 15 and tapped in for birdie then sank a six-foot birdie putt at the par-three 16th to grab a share of the lead.

Rose, the 2013 US Open winner, dropped his approach to four feet at the par-five 15th and made the putt to share second. He had reeled off three consecutive birdies before a bogey at the par-three 12th after missing the green.

After early frustration, Rose made a 24-foot birdie putt at seven, a 10-footer for birdie at nine, a three-footer at 10 and a four-footer at 11.

McIlroy beat Rose in a playoff last year to complete the career Grand Slam.

Rose began Friday with a bogey after hitting his first tee shot under a right-side tree and missing a 10-foot par putt.

The three-time Masters runner-up also missed seven-foot birdie putts at the par-five second and par-three fourth tossing his putter into the air in frustration at the latter before his rally.

American Wyndham Clark, the 2023 US Open champion, fired a 68 to hold the clubhouse lead on four-under 140.

"Augusta can sometimes give you some opportunities to make birdies," Clark said. "You find yourself getting into a groove and sometimes you shoot six-, seven-under and today I felt like I could have done that. But I'll take four-under."

World number one Scottie Scheffler, seeking his third Masters victory in five seasons, made bogeys at the fourth and fifth holes to fall back. □

Sinner eases into Monte Carlo semi-final against Zverev

Monte Carlo, Principality of Monaco

Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz and his closest rival Jan-nik Sinner both cruised into the semi-finals of the Monte Carlo Masters with straight-sets wins on Friday.

Sinner extended his winning run at Masters 1000 events to 20 matches as he brushed aside Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3, 6-4 in one hour 32 minutes.

Alcaraz was next on the centre court and extended his clay-court run of victories to 16 as he crushed Alexander Bublik 6-3, 6-0 in one hour three minutes.

The top two had both suffered second-set blips the day before when Sinner, who said later his energy level was not right had his record streak of 36 consecutive sets won in Masters tournaments snapped by Tomas Machac in the last 16.

"I feel like it was a step forwards today," said the Italian after beating Canadian Auger-Aliassime.

"It was a very tough match. I knew I had to get better in certain areas. The serve is not there yet, where I would love it (to be), but all things considered I'm very happy.

"But in any case, very hap-



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz plays a forehand return to Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik during the Monte Carlo ATP Masters Series Tournament quarter final tennis match on Court Rainier III at the Monte-Carlo Country Club in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, south-eastern France on April 10, 2026.

py to be back in the semis." Sinner has never won one of the elite clay tournaments but will be a strong favourite when he plays Alexander Zverev after winning their last seven meetings.

The world number two, who completed the 'Sunshine double' with wins at Indian Wells and the Miami Open, is still on track for a possible first clash of the year with Alcaraz in the final.

Sinner dropped just seven

points on serve in a dominant opening set which he took courtesy of a break in the sixth game.

The four-time Grand Slam champion also powered through the second set, wrapping up his fifth consecutive win over seventh-ranked Auger-Aliassime.

- 'Playing aggressively' -

Alcaraz, playing Bublik for the first time, broke in the opening game and had four break point in the third

game but could not take any.

Bublik broke back in the fourth game and led 3-2, but Alcaraz won the next 10 games as he raced to victory.

"I started the match pretty well," Alcaraz said.

"I had points to be two breaks up and didn't make it and then I lost a bit of the feeling on the ball.

"I had to run side to side a lot, had to defend and then a few games gave

me a lot of confidence in the match. I was playing aggressively and I played a great and solid match against a player that you don't know what they will produce next."

Alcaraz will face the winner of Friday's closing match between Alex de Minaur and Valentin Vacherot.

World number three Zverev sealed a battling 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-3 victory over Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca to reach the semi-finals in Monaco for the third time.

The German could complete a career sweep of the clay-court Masters 1000 events. He has won the Italian Open and Madrid Open twice each.

Big-hitting 19-year-old Fonseca was playing his first Masters quarter-final but pushed his opponent.

Zverev broke in the 11th game and then served out the opening set to love, before breaking again at the start of the second.

Fonseca reeled off four straight games from 3-1 down to tee up the chance to serve for the set, but he failed to take that opportunity. The world number 40 found his rhythm in the tie-break with a string of magnificent groundstrokes to force a decider. □

Fury happy to be the 'hunter' on return to ring

London, United Kingdom

Tyson Fury said he is relishing being the "hunter" as the British fighter returns to the ring after his latest retirement in a heavyweight showdown against Arslanbek Makhmudov on Satur-

day.

Former world champion Fury weighed in at a lean 19st 2lbs (121.56kg) 3lbs (1.36kg) lighter than in his previous bout against Oleksandr Usyk in 2024 ahead of the showdown

at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

The 37-year-old has come out of retirement for the fifth time in what will be his first appearance in a British rung since defeating Der-ek Chisora in 2022.

The self-styled 'Gypsy King' hopes to defeat Russian-born Makhmudov and move closer to an all-British showdown with Anthony Joshua.

"I dreamt as a child of being the heavyweight world champion and I have lived it. It's absolutely fabulous to be back in boxing. The circus continues," Fury said on Friday.

"Whoever has the belts, I want to get them back. I was undefeated for 17 years and took it for granted.

"I had two losses in a row and I'm not the hunted now, I'm the hunter. It feels great to be the young fresh hunter again."

Fury is widely expected to dispose of Makhmudov, who weighed in at 18st 9bs (118.38kg) for the biggest fight of his career.

And he believes another world title is not out of the question even in the twilight of his career.

"I'm getting older - Father Time waits for no one - but I've still got a bit left in the tank," he said.

"I'm not retiring again until after the fight. My priority at the moment is to beat this guy and eat the Easter eggs I've got in the fridge." Fury also revealed he has moved to the Isle of Man to escape the "nut jobs"

that left him fearing for the safety of his family.

Fury uprooted his wife Paris and their seven children from Morecambe late last year because of the number of disturbed visitors who arrived at his house.

"When people know where you live, you can be targeted at any time, so now I have moved and my address is confidential," he said.

"The final straw was when I had a lunatic come over my gates - 40ft gates. I've got an attack dog, I've got everything. The police came and he said: 'I'm here to be adopted by Tyson and Paris'.

"I wasn't home, I was at the gym and Paris phoned me going nuts. This man could have had a knife or anything on him. □



Britain's Tyson Fury attends a ceremonial weigh-in in central London on April 10, 2026, ahead of his heavyweight boxing match with Russia's Arslanbek Makhmudov on April 11.